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WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

BUI, KIEU OANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/066,631

Applicant(s)

ANTTILA ET AL.

Examiner

KIEU-OANH T BUI

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

*A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –  
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.*

2. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shulman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub No. US2001/0030664 A1/ or “Shulman” hereinafter).

Regarding claim 1, Shulman discloses a method of transmitting a tune alert message from a first media player to a second media player, i.e., a tune alert message regarding as a alert message which can be customized or filtered by a user based on the user's preferences (as illustrated in Figs. 2a, 2b & 3, and page 1/section 0007 to section 0009) from a first media player as a set top box 120' (coupled to a TV set) to a second media player as second local device 110 (as shown in Fig. 1C as one local device 120' communicates to another local device 110 via home controller 116 or an intermediary network access device using multiple protocols, wherein (second) local devices 110 can be a media player such as consumer electronics or a palmtop computer, see page 3, section 0031) the method comprising: (a) presenting broadcast content to a user of the first media player, i.e., a first user can receive a broadcast content from a broadcast source, for example, an advertising or an invitation for an event or party (Figs. 2a & 2b, and

pages 5-6, section 0056 for the notification level can be set to a community broadcast and/or an Interest group and/or Interactive Advertising); (b) generating at the first media player a tune alert message formatted to reconfigure the second media player to provide the content to a user of the second media player, i.e., the user can tune or set the alert message from the first media player to the second media player by customizing to his/her own choice and reconfigure the second media player to receive the alert message by setting the sending to the Interest group at the first media player (as illustrated in Fig. 1C at state alerts and schedules at item 190 within the local set top box 120, and as in Fig. 3 by setting level 320), and (c) transmitting the tune alert message from the first media player to the second media player to provide broadcast content to a user of the second media player, i.e., the tune alert message is then broadcasting the content to the second user of the second media player, for instance, an invitation for a fourth person for golf is a best example for persons with same interests within a same group to communicate to each other (pages 6-7, section 0064). Another example is shown as the content of events from the first media player is broadcasting to the second media player (col.7, sections 0066 & 0067) because the set top box interacts with local devices (col. 4, sections 0042-0044) and the alert notification message configuration is performed at the set top box in order to reconfigure the local device to receive and display the contents of events from the first media player (page 4, section 0048, 0049 and page 6, section 0058 & 0061).

As for claim 2, in view of claim 1, Shulman discloses “wherein the tune alert message comprises at least one content selection configuration parameter of the first media player”, i.e., content selection configuration parameters are provided to the user for selecting or customizing

(see page 2, section 0013 for parameters addressed, and Figs. 2a, 2b, and Fig. 3 on how to configure interactivity level preferences using parameters).

As for claim 3, in view of claim 1, Shulman further discloses “wherein the content comprises audio content received from a radio broadcast source”, i.e., the user can set up the audio tone and/or audio volume of the broadcast notification (Fig. 3/item 325) and listen to news, emergency broadcasts –from a radio broadcast source as an EBS or an Emergency Broadcast System- or local news in a variety of receiving audio/visual devices (pages 4-5, section 0049 and page 7, section 0067).

As for claim 4, in view of claim 1, Shulman further discloses “wherein the content comprises audio-visual content received from a video broadcast source”, i.e., the user can set up the audio tone and/or audio volume of the broadcast notification as well as the display notification including a display header with its subject, size, color and shape (Fig. 3/item 325) and listen and/or watch news, emergency broadcasts –from a radio broadcast source as an EBS or an Emergency Broadcast System- or from a video broadcast source (Fig. 1c for a cable headend 130 for a video broadcast source) wherein television or cable local news is broadcasting to the users in a variety of receiving audio/visual devices (pages 4-5, section 0049 and page 7, section 0067).

As for claim 5, in view of claim 1, Shulman further discloses “wherein the tune alert message comprises an identification of a content source”, i.e., the user whoever sends the tune alert message is identified by his/her username as login persons, for example, Jane Doe is being identified as the person who creates a status alerts to her family members related to homemaking (page 6, sections 0059, 0060 & 0061).

As for claim 6, in view of claim 5, Shulman further discloses “wherein the tune alert message further comprises profile information to characterize the broadcast content”, i.e., user profile information is stored in a database and then it can be retrieved for appropriate actions (see Fig. 4a/item 425, page 5/section 0050 on profile depending on user preferences addressed, and page 6/section 0058 for a data record for storing that preference information from the user).

As for claim 7, in view of claim 1, Shulman further discloses “wherein (c) comprises transmitting the tune alert message from the first media player to a message server”, i.e., a message server or a local automation server (LAS) is provided for the user to send and retrieve messages or data from and to that server (see Fig. 1b, for LAS 120 or 120', and page 3, sections 0031, 0032, 0034 & 0035).

Regarding claim 8, Shulman discloses a method of adjusting a configuration of a media player to receive broadcast content, i.e., a broadcast content which can be received, customized or adjusted by a user based on the user's preferences (as illustrated in Figs. 2a, 2b & 3, and page 1/section 0007 to section 0009) from a first media player or local device 120' to a second media player or another local device 110 (as shown in Fig. 1C as one local device 120' communicates to another local device 110, wherein local devices can be a media player such as consumer electronics or a palmtop computer, see page 3, section 0031), the method comprising:

(a) receiving at the media player a tune alert message formatted to reconfigure the media player to provide the broadcast content to a user of the media player, i.e., the user can tune or set the alert message from the first media player to the second media player by customizing to his/her own choice and reconfigure the second media player to receive the alert message by setting the sending to the Interest group at the first media player (as illustrated in Fig. 1C at state alerts and

schedules at item 190 within the local set top box 120, and as in Fig. 3 by setting level 320; and this feature of setting configuration can also be applied at the second local device because the second local device can be a palmtop computer or PDA), (b) presenting the tune alert message to a user of the media player; i.e., a user can receive a broadcast content from a broadcast source, for example, an advertising or an invitation for an event or party (Figs. 2a & 2b, and pages 5-6, section 0056 for the notification level can be set to a community broadcast and/or an Interest group and/or Interactive Advertising) and (c) reconfiguring the media player to process the broadcast content, i.e., the user can receive the alert message at the local device 110 as noted earlier, and another example is shown as the content of events from the first media player is broadcasting to the second media player (col.7, sections 0066 & 0067) because the set top box interacts with local devices (col. 4, sections 0042-0044) and the alert notification message configuration is performed at the set top box in order to reconfigure the second local device to receive and display the contents of events from the first media player (page 4, section 0048, 0049 and page 6, section 0058 & 0061).

As for claim 9, in view of claim 8, Shulman further discloses including “after (b) receiving an input from the user accepting or denying the tune alert message”, i.e., the user can set up a predetermined time with a condition for accepting or canceling the tune alert message (as shown in Fig. 6 at steps 640 to 665 and from 640 to 645 and 650 for either reschedule the notification or cancel it, and page 7/section 0066); and wherein (c) comprises reconfiguring the media player to process the broadcast content only when the user accepts the tune alert message, i.e., the user only accepts the tune alert message based on conditions that he/she set ups for

receiving (page 7/section 0067 at step 630 for alert message activation or at step 650 for alert message cancellation).

As for claim 10, in view of claim 8, Shulman further discloses “wherein the tune alert message comprises configuration parameters of another media player”, i.e., configuration parameters of another media player is provided by the level of interactivity, for instance, for configuring to send to people with same interests in a special interest group at level 5 (Fig. 2b, page 5/section 0050 for some examples of alert message activation to different users based on different user preferences, and page 6/section 0061 for status alerts addressed).

As for claim 11, in view of claim 8, Shulman further discloses “wherein the content comprises audio content received from a radio broadcast source”, i.e., the user can set up the audio tone and/or audio volume of the broadcast notification (Fig. 3/item 325) and listen to news, emergency broadcasts –from a radio broadcast source as an EBS or an Emergency Broadcast System- or local news in a variety of receiving audio/visual devices (pages 4-5, section 0049 and page 7, section 0067).

As for claim 12, in view of claim 8, Shulman further discloses “wherein the content comprises audio-visual content received from a video broadcast source”, i.e., the user can set up the audio tone and/or audio volume of the broadcast notification as well as the display notification including a display header with its subject, size, color and shape (Fig. 3/item 325) and listen and/or watch news, emergency broadcasts –from a radio broadcast source as an EBS or an Emergency Broadcast System- or from a video broadcast source (Fig. 1c for a cable headend 130 for a video broadcast source) wherein television or cable local news is broadcasting



to the users in a variety of receiving audio/visual devices (pages 4-5, section 0049 and page 7, section 0067).

As for claim 13, in view of claim 8, Shulman further discloses “wherein the tune alert message comprises an identification of a content source”, i.e., the user whoever sends the tune alert message is identified by his/her username as login persons, for example, Jane Doe is being identified as the person who creates a status alerts to her family members related to homemaking (page 6, sections 0059, 0060 & 0061).

As for claim 14, in view of claim 8, Shulman further discloses including “before (b): comparing at least one parameter of the tune alert message to at least one preference parameter provided by a user of the media player”, i.e., before presenting the tune message to the user, the comparison step of at least one parameter of the tune alert message against at least one preference parameter provided by the user of the media player (as shown in Figs. 2a, 2b & 3 for setting up preference parameters at the local devices, which can be a media player as mentioned earlier in claim 1, and the comparison step occurs during the determination step 435 in order to provide appropriate actions as necessary (Fig. 4a, and page 6/section 0058).

As for claim 15, in view of claim 8, Shulman further discloses “wherein the broadcast content comprises promotional content”, i.e., advertising content can be provided to the user as Interactive Advertising level 7 is activated (Fig. 2b, and pages 5-6/section 0056).

Regarding claim 16, Shulman discloses a media player configured to receive messages and broadcast content, i.e., a media player or local devices can be consumer electronics or a palmtop computer (see page 3, section 0031) or as a set top box (Fig. 1c/item 120', and as stated in the present specifications on page 4, section 19) configured to receive messages and broadcast

content (as illustrated in Fig. 1c, and pages 4-5/sections 0049, 0051 & 0052); the media player comprising: a communication module that receives a message identifying a source of broadcast content, i.e., a communications port 160 for transmitting and receiving messages between a plurality of devices (Fig. 1e) and identifying a source of broadcast content by its addresses or uniform resource locator URL (page 3/section 0035 for addressing server, and page 7/section 0065 for an URL addressed); a tuner that is adjustable to process content received from a plurality of different sources of broadcast content, i.e., a tuner 176 (as shown in Fig. 1c/item 176) for tuning to different sources of broadcast content, for example, to an Emergency Broadcast System or to a Community broadcast or to Interactive TV or to Interactive Advertising (Figs. 2b & 3, and page 5-6/sections 0055 & 0056); and state alerts and schedules 190 regarding as a tune alert module means configured to adjust the tuner to process content received from the content source identified in the message, i.e., content received from different sources as mentioned can be set or tuned by the level settings accordingly, for example, with or without a header and on how to transmit that alert notification (see Fig. 2b, and page 5/section 0054 for further details).

As for claims 17, 18 and 19, in view of claim 16, Shulman further discloses “wherein the tuner processes radio content”; “wherein the tuner processes video content” and “wherein the tuner process multimedia content”, i.e., the user can set up the audio tone and/or audio volume of the broadcast notification as well as the connected display of TV set to the set top terminal with a wireless keyboard 164 or a remote control 164’ (Figs. 1c & 3) and listen to news, emergency broadcasts –from a radio broadcast source as an EBS or an Emergency Broadcast System- or from a video broadcast source (Fig. 1c for a cable headend 130 for a video broadcast source) wherein television or cable local news local news is broadcasting to the users via a world wide

web for receiving multimedia content in a variety of receiving audio/visual devices (pages 4-5, section 0049, 0051, 0052 and page 7, section 0067).

Regarding claim 20, this claim for “a computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for causing a first media player to perform the steps comprising: (a) presenting content to a user of the first media player, (b) generating at the first media player a tune alert message that may be used to reconfigure a second media player to provide the content to a user of the second media player; and (c) transmitting the tune alert message from the first media player to the second media player to provide the broadcast content to a user of the second media player” is rejected for the reason given in the scope of claim 1 as already disclosed above with a computer readable medium such as a GUI within local devices (page 3/section 0031 for computer readable medium devices such as palmtop computers, PDA or consumer electronics and so on) and equipped with an Internet browser for executing executable instructions for the media player or the local devices to perform those steps as disclosed earlier (page 5/section 0052).

As for claim 21, Schulman discloses “a media player comprising: a means for selecting content to present to a user; a means for transmitting tuning information that corresponds to the content and is formatted to be used to tune a remote device” (see claim 1, wherein the limitation of “to tune to a remote device” is referred to another device or a second local device as already discussed; furthermore, as in view of claim 16 above, see Fig. 1c, a set top box regarding as a media player can present the selecting content to the user by either a TV set 168 or remote devices 110 via communications port 160, and the set top box tunes information corresponds to the content with the use of State Alerts & Schedules 190 and then transmits the tuning

information to other remote devices 110 using Store & Forward Data 186 based on Account Configuration 182 within the memory 163).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

4. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shulman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub No. US2001/0030664 A1/ or “Shulman”) in view of Pepper et al. (US Patent 5,930,700/ or “Pepper”).

Regarding claim 22, Schulman discloses a mobile terminal, i.e., a set top terminal is a mobile terminal (page 4, section 0041 as people can place it anywhere they like), comprising: a transceiver module (inherently, and in view of Pepper as below) that sends and receives messages, i.e., a communications port 160 functions as a transceiver -meaning “transmitter” and “receiver”- by providing communication as a two-way communication link to other devices 110 (Fig. 1c, and page 4, section 0047, “communication” means transmit and receive information or messages between two or more parties); a tuner module configurable to select broadcast content (Fig. 1c/item 176); a tune alert module coupled to the tuner module and the transceiver module, the tune alert module generating tune alert messages that are formatted to adjust a tuner module of another mobile terminal, i.e., state alerts and schedules 190 regarding as a tune alert module

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means configured to adjust the tuner to process content received from the content source to different interactive levels (see Fig. 2b, and page 5/section 0054 for further details); and an audio/video generation module for receiving the broadcast content from the tuner and providing audio and video signals to output devices, i.e., Schulman inherently discloses the set top box must include an audio/video generation module for receiving the broadcast content from the tuner because it has a plurality of input and output ports to help it to communicate to other local and remote devices such as local devices 110, network 130, cable headend, a television, a VCR, a satellite disk including option to receive interactive multimedia services, online services, digital radio channels (page 4/sections 0042 & 0043 & 0045), for instance, an NTSC converter handles video signal conversion and output video to a display (page 4/section 0047), and stereo/audio output terminals for providing audio outputs to external devices (page 4/section 0042).

Shulman has a communication port but does not clearly show to have "a transceiver" within the mobile terminal, and Shulman does suggest that the local device can be any type of device not limited to a palmtop computer, a PDA, a cellular phone, a web-enabled phones and so on (page 3, section 0031 & 0032), and then; however, a transceiver is to be equipped within a mobile terminal for communication is too well known in the art. In fact, Peeper, in his system and method for automatically screening and directing incoming calls, discloses a portable or mobile terminal such as a personal digital assistant PDA that further including a wireless transceiver coupled to an antenna 212 for transmitting and receiving wireless communications in the previous prior art (Fig. 2/item 210 for a transceiver, and col. 2/lines 42-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shulman's communication port with an existing and known (wireless) transceiver as

taught by Peeper in order to provide RF or wireless communication to other mobile devices. The motivation for doing this is to provide an enhanced capability to the portable device for its mobility and flexibility in communication to other wireless devices as taught by Peeper.

*Response to Arguments*

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/31/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants basically argue that Shulman does not teach or suggest the step of “generating at the first media player a tune alert message formatted to reconfigure the second media player... to provide the content to a user of the second media player” as cited in claims 1 and 8, with a similar issue in claims 16, 21 and 22, and the Examiner disagrees with the Applicants' arguments based on the following reasons.

First, Shulman shows in Figure 1c that a broadcast headend provides broadcasting programs to television set 168 via a set top box 120', considered as a first device, and at this first device, messages are reconfigured to provide to a second device such as miscellaneous devices 110 (page 3, section 0031) using multiple protocols (page 2, section 0029). Shulman clearly discloses the first communication device communicates with the second device (page 4, sections 0042 & 0047). Then, a Graphical User Interface (GUI) is provided at the user's device for setting user preferences in alert notification (Figs. 2A & 3); the first user has an option to reply to the alert notification by using a reply template for configuration, control functions, transactions and so on to other users (page 2, section 0011), and based on the setting at 320 of Figure 3, the user can prefer being notified by setting “Home Information” or “Interest Group”. Furthermore, Shulman discloses that a first computer provides information to a second computer for the user at

the second computer accessing the information (page 2, section 0013) via emails (col. 7, section 0067) or configuring user preferences using HomeView buttons (page 5, section 0052). Thus, as the message or an alert notification is received at a first local device, the user can set up his preferences at the first device whether to e-mail or reroute it to a second device with the broadcast content represented at the first device. In page 6, section 0061, Shulman shows an example that a notification can be rerouted to another device based on the concept as noted above. Therefore, the Examiner respectfully believes that Shulman meets the limitation of claims 1, 8, 16, and 21-22 as disclosed in details in this revised Office Action with more explanations, and the Examiner stands with the disclosure and teaching of Shulman and Peeper as disclosed above.

***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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7. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**


(703) 872-9306, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II,  
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-0095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached at (703) 305-4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

  
VIVEK SRIVASTAVA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Krista Bui  
Art Unit 2611  
March 15, 2004